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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE WEDNESDAY MAY 23, 2007 www.doj.gov/usao/moe

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ST. LOUIS MAN SENTENCED TO 48 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY A RECORD SETTING AMOUNT OF PORNOGRAPHIC IMAGES OF CHILDREN

ST. LOUIS, Missouri - Jason Bilgere was sentenced to 51 months in prison for possession of child pornography, U.S. Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway, of the Eastern District of Missouri announced today.

"Mr. Bilgere had accumulated almost 100,000 pictures and 5000 video files on his computer featuring pornographic images of children—including video files of the rape of children and infants," said Hanaway. "This is the largest accumulation of child pornography we have seen in this District. We will continue to strive to send these predators who victimize our children to prison for long periods of time."

Bilgere, 26, of the 5200 block of Blow Street, St. Louis, pled guilty in October to two felony counts of possession of child pornography after a jury had been picked for this trial. He appeared today for sentencing before United States District Judge E. Richard Webber.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.